

On the Journal (rollcall No. 514), I would have voted "yea."

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 514, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 514, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 514, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Will the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIMPSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. One minutes will be postponed until the end of the day except for the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY YATES

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a very sad announcement. Congressman Sidney Yates died last night.

Those who loved the arts, who cherish the environment, who struggle for human freedom and dignity lost a hero. Many of us, many of you lost a very dear friend, a true gentleman in this body for 48 years.

There will be an opportunity at a later time for those who are moved to pay tribute to Sid to speak on this floor, and details about arrangements will be provided to all Members as soon as they are available.

#### WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4475, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 612 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 612

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the

conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4475) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The Conference report shall be considered as read.

SEC. 2. House Resolutions 586, 592, 595, 599, and 600 are laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL); pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 612 is a standard conference report rule providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4475, the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2001.

The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. Additionally, the rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Finally, the rule lays House Resolutions 586, 592, 595, 599, and 600 on the table.

Mr. Speaker, whether cross-town or cross-country, by car, train or plane, ensuring the safety and efficiency of our transportation networks is one of the Federal Government's highest responsibilities. The conference report accompanying H.R. 4475 continues the Republican Congress' focus on safety for all modes of transportation.

This bill improves and invests in the Nation's infrastructure and safety by targeting funds to critical programs such as air traffic control modernization, airport improvement grants, motor carrier safety, and increasing investments in highway safety research.

The bill enhances the safety and capacity of the aviation system and the highway and rail networks. It makes runway prevention systems and devices eligible for airport improvement funds and directs the FAA to make such requests for discretionary funding the highest priority. Under this bill, air traffic services continue to make up an integral part of aviation safety.

The bill provides a total of nearly \$17.8 billion in discretionary budget authority for our Nation's infrastructure and transportation safety, including the Federal Aviation Administration, transit program spending, the United States Coast Guard, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The bill includes \$279 million for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, an increase of more than 50 percent from last year's levels, to im-

prove the safety of the trucks of our Nation's roads. The underlying legislation also increases investments to critical highway safety research and development of smart vehicle technologies.

Another significant piece of the Transportation Appropriations is to fund the drug interdiction activities carried out by the U.S. Coast Guard. The bill provides for \$565 million for these activities, helping the men and women of the Coast Guard prevent addictive and deadly narcotics from ever reaching our shores, let alone our neighborhoods and school yards.

Additionally, the bill meets the funding obligations for the highway and aviation accounts, as prescribed under TEA-21 and AIR-21 reauthorization bills. These programs are critical to improvements and modernization of our roadways and our airways, providing desperately needed funds across the Nation.

The bill also contains an increase in funding for pipeline safety, an increase of 25 percent over last year.

I am also pleased the underlying bill makes available a \$2 million continuing appropriation for the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority bus project, an important public transportation project that will serve my district and region. It also contains an additional appropriation for reverse commuting that will help those most in need to reach their jobs, wherever they may be, demonstrating our commitment to better, safer public transportation.

Similarly, the conference report provides much needed funding of \$2 million for the Niagara Falls Transportation Authority in the Buffalo area. Under this legislation, Western New York will be able to be better served with more reliable and safe bus transportation and improve job access and reverse commute efforts.

Mr. Speaker, safety should remain the Federal Government's highest responsibility in the transportation area, and clearly this bill addresses those needs and concerns.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member, for their hard work in bringing this measure before the House today. I would also like to commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member, for their hard work and continued commitment to our Nation's infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.